MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH DAY

Monday, 2nd July 1962.

The House met in the Assembly Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, at One of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER (SRI B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA, B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

CONDOLENCE REFERENCE

Re: the Demise of Dr. B. C. Roy and Sri Purushothamdas Tandon.

MR. SPEAKER.—Hon'ble Members, it is with a sense of profound sorrow that I rise to make a reference to the sudden demise of Dr. B. C. Roy at Calcutta yesterday. All of us had been so accustomed to look upon him as one of the top leaders of the country that it is difficult to assess immediately the loss or as yet to understand the extent the gap that has been left by his death. He was one of the rare examples of a doctor of medcine who reached eminence in his profession and achieved similar eminence in politics as well. Though till the very last days of his life he continued to be one of the ablest members of the medical profession and though his services as doctor were available always both to the rich and the poor, it was as a political leader that he settled himself firmly in our minds. Born in 1882, he took his medical degree in India and proceeded to England where he obtained the highest degrees available both in medicine and surgery in the same year. Among his many-sided activities was also his interest in the Calcutta University of which he was Vice-Chancellor for nearly two years. His political career began in nineteen twenties. His relationship with Mahatmaji which dated from that time was one of intimacy, mutual trust and affection. He entered Bengal Legislature after a sensational victory in which he defeated the great patriot Sri Surendranath Banerji. For the last fourteen years he was at the helm of administration in West Bengal. He was the unquestioned leader in West Bengal and automatically got elected for four terms. At a time when this country was faced with crisis after crisis it was due to his statesmanship that the forces of disintegration were kept in check and at that stage he was able to undertake a very large number of projects. Phenomenal progress by West Bengal is to a large extent attributable to his personality. His fame never diminished at any time during a long period of selfless service. He was par excellence both in manner of quality and quantum of service. His advice was sought in the solution of problems of all India importance. He was a leader impossible to replace. He was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1961.

I have also to refer to the death yesterday in Allahabad of Babu Purushothamdas Tandon, the former Congress President. He was also born in 1882. After taking his Degree with distinction, he began legal practice in Allahabad and associated himself with Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. He was also the Editor of a Hindi weekly founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. He was Law Minister and later Foreign Minister in Naba State. He was also General Secretary for ten years of the

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Hindi Sahitya Samaj, an Association to which Babu Tandon was deeply devoted. He was Chairman of the Allahabad Municipal Board. He was among the first to join Mahatmaji in the non-co-operation movement and from that time on he never resumed his legal practice. He was President of the Servants of the Peoples' Association having succeeded Lala Lajpatrai. He was leader of the non-co-operation movement in his province. He was returned unopposed in 1936 General Elections and unanimously elected Speaker. With the outbreak of the II World War, he resigned his office and so got imprisonment. In 1946 he was again elected to the Assembly and once again unanimously elected Speaker. In 1950 he was elected President of the All India Congress Committee but resigned in favour of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He was Member of the Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1956 when he was returned to the Rajya Sabha. He was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1961.

Several Hon'ble Members including the Leader of the House contacted me and I in my turn have also contacted several Hon'ble Members of the House including the Leader of the Opposition. During the short period available to me I find that it is the sense of the House that as a mark of respect we may adjourn the work of the House for the day to assemble to-morrow at 1-00 P.M.

We may now stand in silence for two minutes, as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

[*Hon'ble Members stood in silence for two minutes*].

MR. SPEAKER.—I adjourn the House now to assemble tomorrow at 1-00 P.M.

The House adjourned at Ten Minutes past One of the Clock to meet again at One of the Clock on Tuesday, the 3rd July 1962.

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